



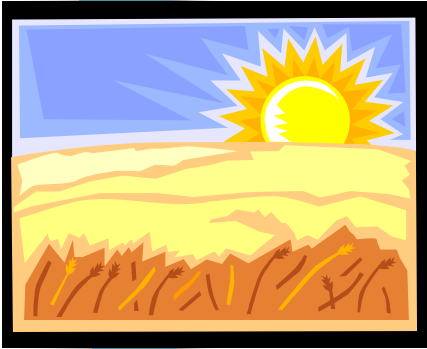
# Montana Drought Advisory Committee



USDA, NASS, Montana  
Field Office

John Hilton, Deputy  
Director

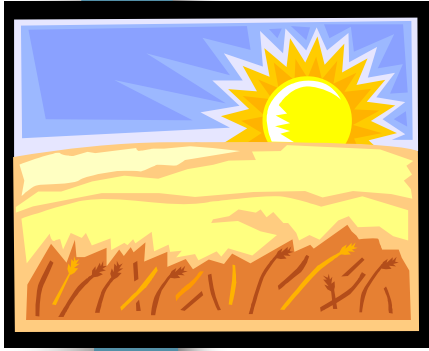
March 23, 2007



## 2006 a GOOD Year for Montana's Agriculture

- ❖ High cattle prices
- ❖ Value of Montana's cattle inventory \$2.9 billion
- ❖ All wheat price up \$1.00/bu; barley prices also up, especially feed barley
- ❖ Wheat & barley crop values about the same as last year

March 23, 2007

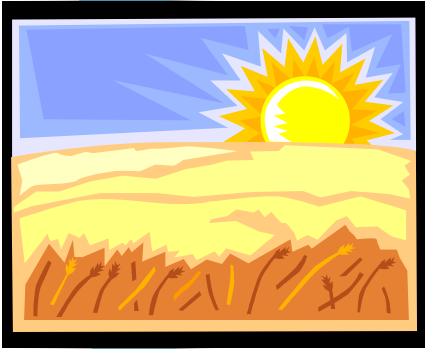


# Crop Weather Report

## Month Ending February 28, 2007

- February had wide-ranging temperatures
- High of 64 degrees
- Low of -36 degrees
- Departure from normal ranged from -7 to +10

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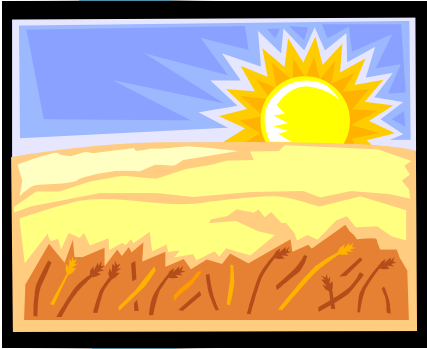


# Crop Weather Report

## Month Ending February 28, 2007

- The entire state received some precipitation in February
  - Normal precipitation for February ranges from about 1.1 inch in the North West to almost 0.3 inches in the Central region
  - Average precipitation about 0.9 inches
- 20% of the stations reported less than average precipitation for February
- Of the stations reporting since Oct 1, 2006
  - ❖ 4% reported less than 50% normal precipitation compared to 0% last year
  - ❖ 33% reported better than 50% but less than normal compared to 20% last year
  - ❖ 63% reported normal precipitation or better compared to 80% last year

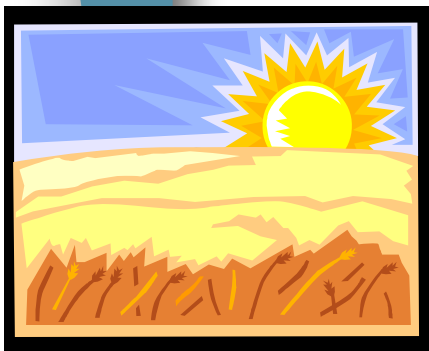
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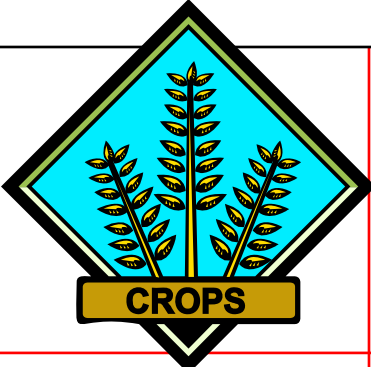
# 2007 Montana Winter Wheat Acreage

- ❖ 2.15 million acres
- ❖ Up 10% from 2006
- ❖ Up 200,000 acres from 2006

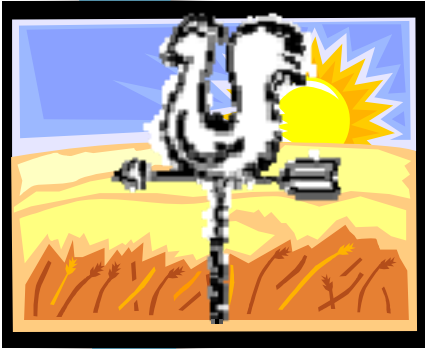
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## Winter Wheat Crop Condition declined from last month but improved from last year

	Feb. 2007 (%)	Jan. 2007 (%)	Feb. 2006 (%)
Excellent	6	10	6
Good	28	44	32
Fair	64	41	50
Poor	2	5	12
Very Poor	0	0	0

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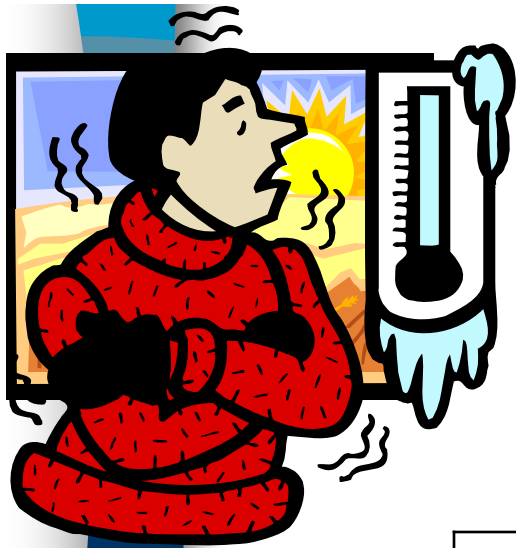


# Winter Wheat

**February had a little more wind damage than last month & last year**

	Feb. 2007 (%)	Jan. 2007 (%)	Feb. 2006 (%)
Heavy	1	1	2
Moderate	8	17	12
Light	52	34	44
None	39	48	42

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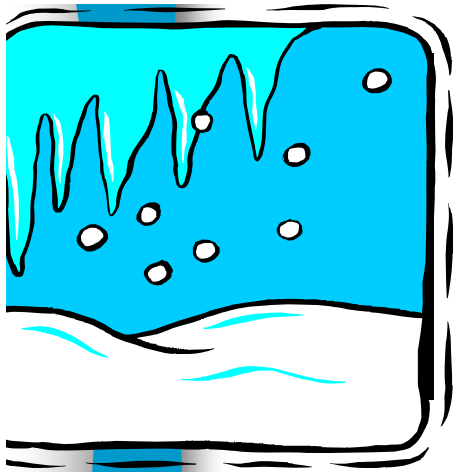
# Winter Wheat

**Freeze & Drought Damage for  
February similar to last month  
and last year**

	Feb. 2007 (%)	Jan. 2007 (%)	Feb. 2006 (%)
Heavy	0	1	1
Moderate	3	10	24
Light	48	37	26
None	49	52	49

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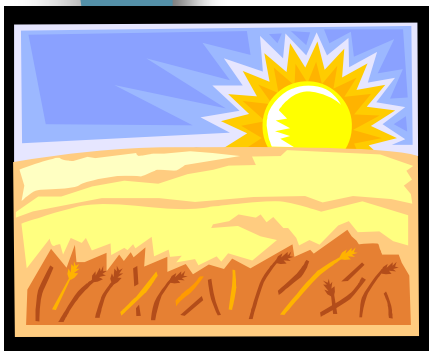




# Winter Wheat Snow Cover Protectiveness for February Much Better than Last Month & Last Year

	Feb. 2007 (%)	Jan. 2007 (%)	Feb. 2006 (%)
Excellent	4	0	0
Good	14	5	12
Fair	50	21	5
Poor	9	25	25
Very Poor	23	49	58

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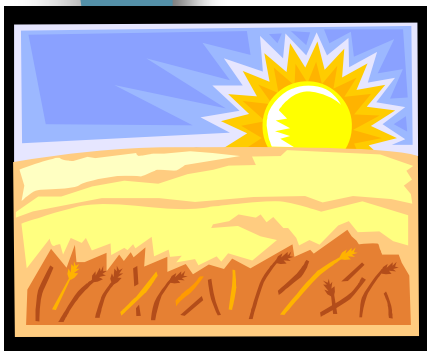


# Topsoil Moisture February 2007

- Topsoil moisture ahead of last month and last year

	Feb. 2007 (%)	Jan. 2007 (%)	Feb. 2006 (%)
Very Short	3	9	10
Short	22	35	38
Adequate	72	54	50
Surplus	3	2	2

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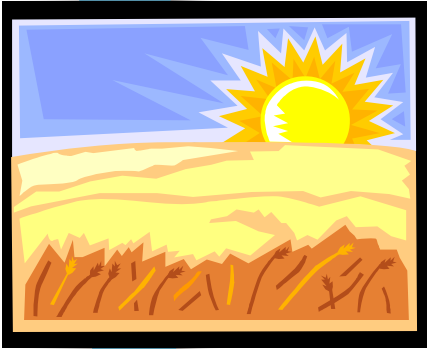


# Subsoil Moisture February 2007

- Subsoil moisture ahead of last month and last year

	Feb. 2007 (%)	Jan. 2007 (%)	Feb. 2006 (%)
Very Short	10	17	21
Short	39	46	44
Adequate	50	36	34
Surplus	1	1	1

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# Cattle numbers in Montana

## **Cattle inventory Jan. 1, 2007**

- ❖ 2.40 million head
- ❖ Same as January 1, 2006

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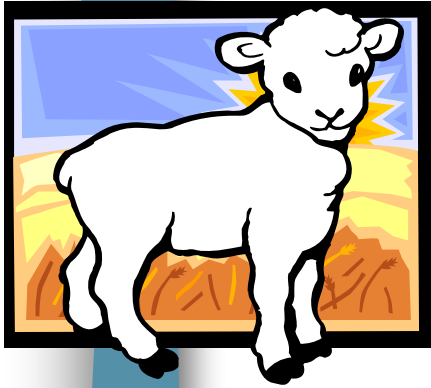


# Livestock Grazing

- Open grazing behind last month and last year

	Feb. 2007 (%)	Jan. 2007 (%)	Feb. 2006 (%)
Open	52	70	65
Difficult	27	18	14
Closed	21	12	21

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# Calving about the same as last year but lambing behind

	Feb. 2007 (%)	Jan. 2007 (%)	Feb. 2006 (%)
Calving	26	3	29
Lambing	9	1	19

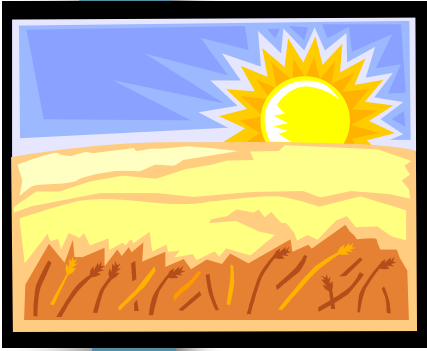
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# Supplemental feeding in February same as last year

	Feb. 2007 (%)	Jan. 2007 (%)	Feb. 2006 (%)
Cattle & calves	97	94	97
Sheep & lambs	96	95	96

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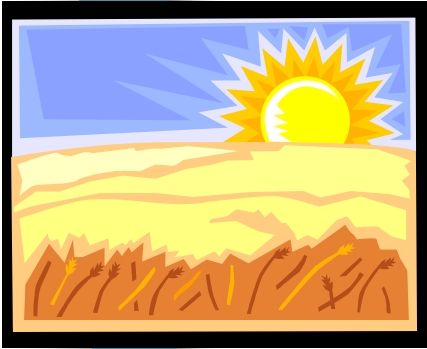


# December Hay Stocks

- 4.1 million tons on December 1, 2006
  - ❖ 25% less than last year (2005 was record high for production and stocks)
  - ❖ Average hay stocks usage by ranchers 600,000 tons between May & November 2006

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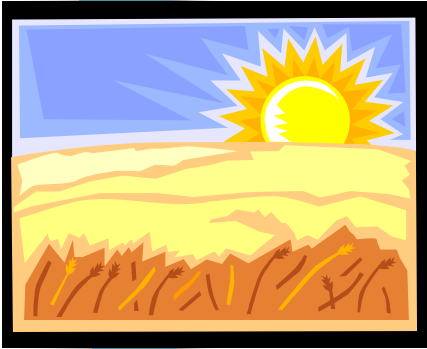




# March Ag Intentions Survey

- First look at farmers' plans for 2007 crop year
- Find out how weather conditions, prices, and biofuel will affect farmers' plans to seed crops in 2007
- Release on March 30, 2007

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# Coming Up

- Weekly Crop Weather starts April 2
- Hay county estimates April 12
- March Prospective Planting Report  
March 30

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